Gunnerkrigg Court

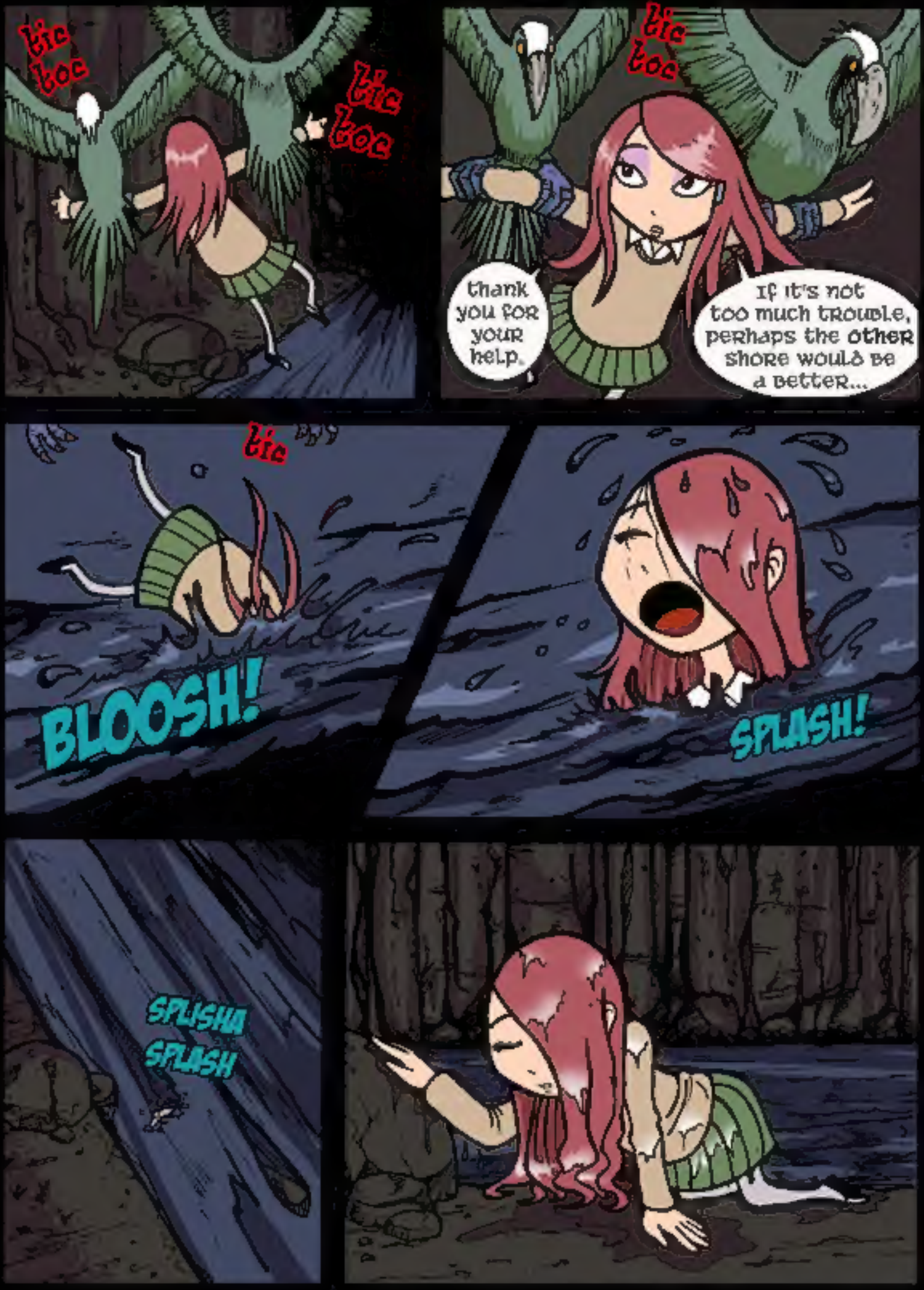
Chapter 8:

Broken Glass And Other Things

I dropped a glass.
and it broke.
I'm sorry...

did you cut yourself?
no.
then it's nothing to be concerned about.
sometimes things fall...
and break.
well...
now I know how the glass felt

tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc


tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
thank you for your help.
If it's not too much trouble, perhaps the other shore would be a better...
tic
BLOOSH!
SPLASH!
SPLISHA SPLASH

my eyes soon became accustomed to the darkness.
though there was not much to see.
in the distance there was a light, shining dimly from the opposite shore.
despite the river being far too large to cross on my own, I decided to investigate further.
but then...
I found something.

this strange bird must have been fatally wounded during my fall.
It was such a shame.
But, something about it didn't seem quite right.
please excuse me.
snip snip snip
snap
well, mechanical or not, you and your friends saved my life.
thank you.

TWEET
CHRRP
so, you've come to see if I fell to my death, have you?
CHIRP
well, go away. you did something to poor robot, and I won't allow you to do the same to me.
you are such a big fat meanie!
can't you see how upset he is?

as well he should be. it's because of him that i am down here.
GWEE
GWONK
TWEET
nuh-uh! he says it was some other shadow guy dat made your friend push you off the bridge.
BOOORING!
so it wasn't you up there? i'm glad.
GWEE!
it's good to see you again.
CHIRP!
i wasn't aware that he could talk.
not very well. he's just a kid.
c'mon, let's gooo!
shaddap, you! she could help us!
ooh yeah!

so you need something?
yeah! pick up dat big rock!
this one?
yeah yeah!
now bring it over here!
clap clap
and squash us flat!
wheee! finally!
hey!

hey you BIG junk! you were supposed to smash us to pieces!
I will do nothing of the sort!
Why would you want to die in such a way?
It's for the test, dumbotron!
If we don't finish it, we're stuck down here!
well if you are so eager to take your lives, you can do it yourselves
that's cheating!
we're not allowed to cheat!
bah! she's useless!
let's ask dis other guy.
hey, mister!
could you, like, step on us or something?

Oh, hello, mutt.
are you here for the bird?
we do not deal in electrical appliances
I have business nearby.
we took a moment to see how you were.
I'm just fine
someone who is "just fine" would not be in this place.

Of course, we cannot help you...
I don't recall asking for help from you or the others.
Regardless. Do you know a young spirit called Mort?
I do.
We appreciate your helping him. He is new and inexperienced.
He wanted us to give you this.
Something you may find useful given your... current situation.
I will thank him myself when I return.
But before you go. The light on the opposite shore. Does it belong to any of you?

someone beyond even our reach. be thankful she cannot cross the river
now, I must attend to other matters
hey! what about us?!
sorry, children, I only escort the dead.
I do not decide someone's fate.
antimony may you fare well
still such anger...

so are you gonna use it or what?
excuse me?
the blinker stone, tubby
it's kinda cold out
now that you mention it, I hadn't realised how cold it was
how will this help?
just put it on the ground and imagine a fire.
FWOOSH
It's just like a real fire...
what a thoughtful gift.

you should not be doing that.
It was my fault. I should clean it up.
you might hurt yourself
I'll be just fine.

tell me about this test you mentioned
oh, we gotta finish it so we can get our new bodies.
why? did'joo change your mind?
no. what's wrong with your current bodies?
well, we need new ones so we can go to the gunner's crag.
gunner's crag?
do you mean gunnerkrigg court?
yeah, the court at gunner's crag. something like dat.
that's where I come from.
get outta town!

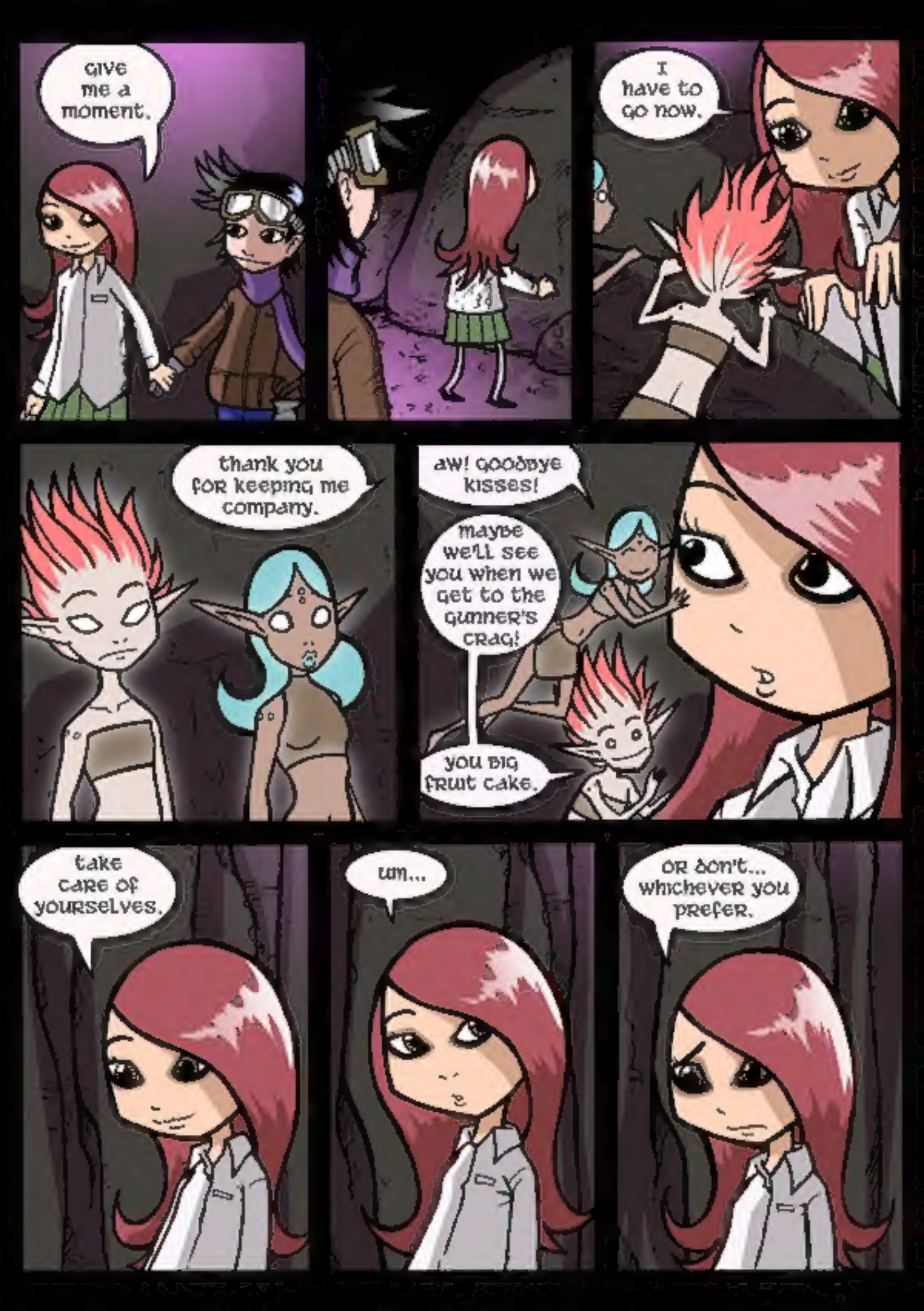
the rest of our class is already there! we're the last ones!
are you saying that some of the students at my school used to be fairies like you?
yeah!
so .. dis is what our new bodies will look like, huh?
well, perhaps not exactly the same, but I suppose so.
hmm, maybe we can go on a diet when we get there.
so so so! wassit like there?!
is it a whole buncha fun?!
yes. yes it is.
I hope I can go back soon.

what is dat?
woah! hey now!
hello miss... are you from the other shore?
how did you cross the

SWIK
hey!
stop bat!

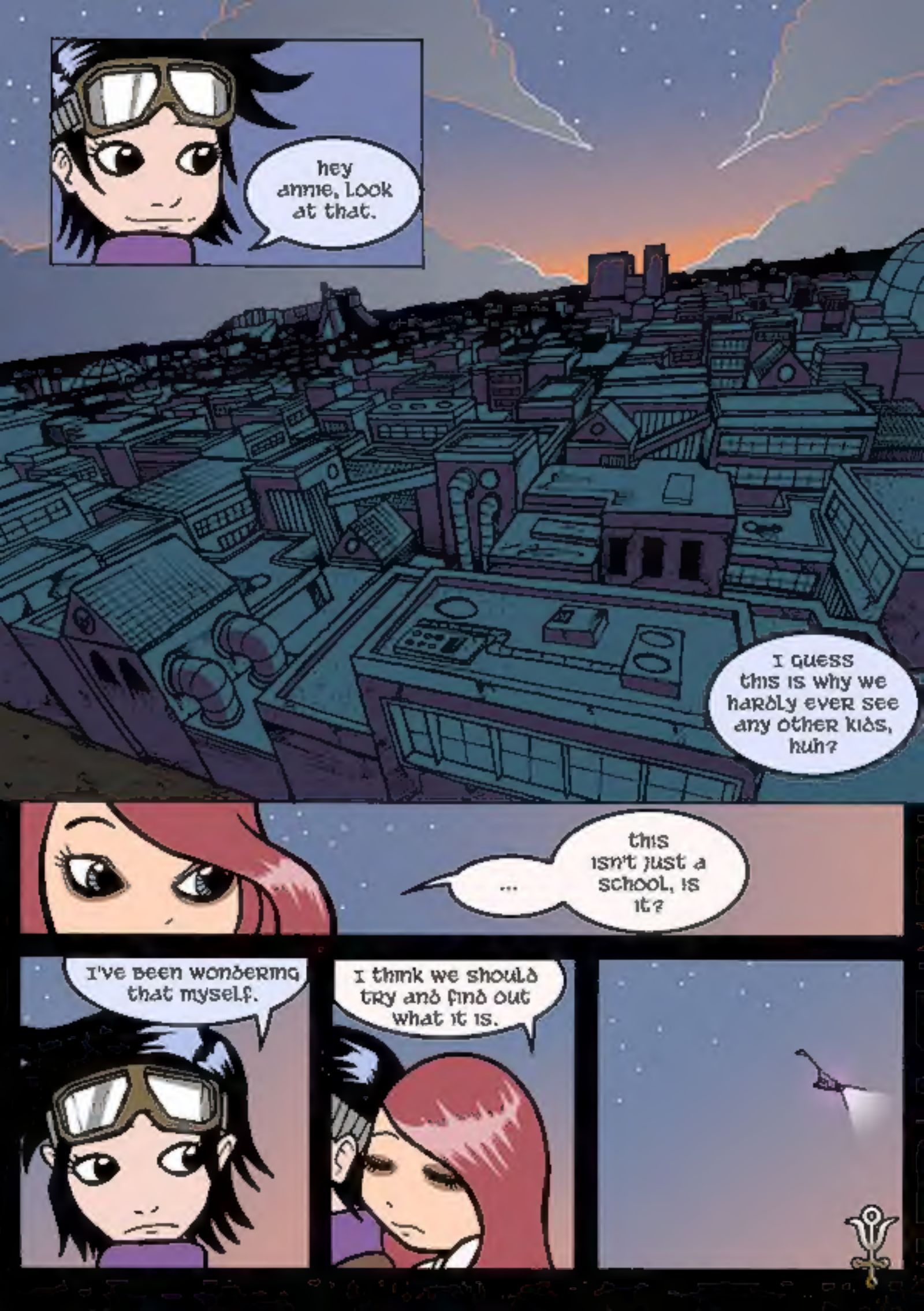
I'll save you, little girl.
k... kat?
I knew it! I knew you were still alive!
I told them!

how did you get down here?!
I made my anti-grav unit into a ship!
and I made it small so only you and me can ride it!
my dad helped a little too.
I'm really sorry it took me so long, annie. I spent like the first hour blubbering my eyes out.
you don't need to apologise, kat .
c'mon, let's get you home. are you okay?
I . I think so, yes.


give me a moment.
I have to go now.
thank you for keeping me company.
aw! goodbye kisses!
maybe we'll see you when we get to the gunner's crag!
you big fruit cake.
take care of yourselves.
um...
or don't... whichever you prefer.

Shadow 2, I may be able to take you back with me if you hide.
So you want to come?
GWEE!!
Very well, I can take you with me in my shoe.
I'm ready now.

you're a big dummy, you know?
I'm sorry, kat. Is everyone mad at me?
I bloody well am!
you remember that time I told you that I'd never lost anyone I cared for?
yes.
well I know what that feels like now, and I don't want to feel like that again. got it?
got it.


hey annie, look at that.
I guess this is why we hardly ever see any other kids, huh?
...
this isn't just a school, is it?
I've been wondering that myself.
I think we should try and find out what it is.